



FOI: 100092

Highways England  
8th Floor  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester M1 2WD

26/07/2019

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019. In that request, you asked us:

- How many breakdown incidents has Highways England recorded in the last five financial years (2018/19, 2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16 and 2014/15)? Please break this information down by month and day within the five years.
- Please also tell me the top 15 breakdown locations by Highway Name.

Please find the data below. This data has been extracted from Highways England incident management system and shows the number of instances where the closure code for Breakdown (BD) has been recorded on the SRN. The system only records details of any incidents that Highways England have an awareness of or involvement in.

FY 14-15	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total	% of total
Monday	2,207	2,011	2,740	2,299	2,210	2,583	2,177	2,128	2,565	1,959	2,198	2,441	27,518	14.54%
Tuesday	2,486	1,961	1,946	2,791	2,083	2,388	2,054	1,928	2,453	1,910	2,001	2,279	26,280	13.89%
Wednesday	2,619	2,053	2,023	2,853	2,145	1,932	2,647	2,117	2,427	1,920	1,989	1,889	26,614	14.06%
Thursday	2,149	2,676	2,272	3,087	2,190	2,046	2,660	2,048	1,916	2,330	2,177	1,989	27,540	14.55%
Friday	2,150	3,036	2,506	3,023	3,353	2,321	3,155	2,456	2,281	2,554	2,315	2,288	31,438	16.61%
Saturday	1,758	2,592	1,998	2,390	2,790	1,951	1,841	2,336	1,943	2,071	1,776	1,913	25,359	13.40%
Sunday	1,742	1,868	2,619	2,115	2,725	1,938	1,856	2,227	1,857	1,501	1,772	2,287	24,507	12.95%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15,111</b>	<b>16,197</b>	<b>16,104</b>	<b>18,558</b>	<b>17,496</b>	<b>15,159</b>	<b>16,390</b>	<b>15,240</b>	<b>15,442</b>	<b>14,245</b>	<b>14,228</b>	<b>15,086</b>	<b>189,256</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

FY 15-16	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total	% of total
Monday	2,014	2,083	2,565	2,223	2,696	1,929	2,015	2,635	2,155	1,909	2,506	1,927	26,657	14.19%
Tuesday	2,133	1,967	2,631	2,027	1,953	2,509	1,918	1,949	2,560	1,870	1,976	2,419	25,912	13.79%
Wednesday	2,591	1,906	1,976	2,878	2,274	2,466	2,048	2,090	2,671	1,920	1,948	2,357	27,125	14.43%
Thursday	2,741	2,074	2,194	2,783	2,301	1,994	2,642	2,131	2,394	2,057	2,086	2,547	27,944	14.87%
Friday	2,301	2,959	2,671	3,516	2,711	2,320	3,010	2,301	2,009	2,496	2,323	2,278	30,895	16.44%
Saturday	1,817	2,408	1,877	2,195	3,056	2,030	2,411	1,871	1,793	2,007	1,809	1,790	25,064	13.34%
Sunday	1,748	2,271	1,998	2,056	2,786	2,057	1,874	2,361	1,844	2,018	1,673	1,630	24,316	12.94%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15,345</b>	<b>15,668</b>	<b>15,912</b>	<b>17,678</b>	<b>17,777</b>	<b>15,305</b>	<b>15,918</b>	<b>15,338</b>	<b>15,426</b>	<b>14,277</b>	<b>14,321</b>	<b>14,948</b>	<b>187,913</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

FY 16-17	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total	% of total
Monday	1,957	2,597	2,330	2,328	2,936	2,060	2,384	2,089	1,912	2,272	1,973	1,996	26,834	14.40%
Tuesday	1,968	2,558	2,030	2,332	2,870	1,990	1,854	2,376	1,874	2,413	1,981	1,912	26,158	14.04%
Wednesday	1,951	2,045	2,708	2,304	2,729	2,097	2,011	2,552	1,955	1,858	1,969	2,457	26,636	14.30%
Thursday	1,973	2,222	2,655	2,259	2,292	2,607	1,994	1,971	2,512	1,895	2,097	2,597	27,074	14.53%
Friday	2,918	2,468	2,478	3,351	2,778	2,892	2,184	2,167	2,619	2,040	2,175	2,703	30,773	16.52%
Saturday	2,328	2,029	2,045	2,611	2,240	1,964	2,340	1,728	2,092	1,557	1,764	1,850	24,548	13.18%
Sunday	1,837	2,591	2,084	2,919	2,185	1,937	2,222	1,703	1,483	1,885	1,664	1,786	24,296	13.04%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,932</b>	<b>16,510</b>	<b>16,330</b>	<b>18,104</b>	<b>18,030</b>	<b>15,547</b>	<b>14,989</b>	<b>14,586</b>	<b>14,447</b>	<b>13,920</b>	<b>13,623</b>	<b>15,301</b>	<b>186,319</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

FY 17-18	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total	% of total
Monday	1,940	2,450	2,220	2,852	2,354	2,016	2,563	2,128	2,156	2,639	2,238	2,653	28,209	14.44%
Tuesday	1,876	2,342	1,967	2,098	2,644	1,916	2,404	2,015	2,220	2,749	2,331	2,391	26,953	13.80%
Wednesday	1,914	2,580	2,187	2,134	2,598	1,843	2,010	2,547	2,490	2,637	2,599	2,267	27,806	14.24%
Thursday	2,033	2,173	2,730	2,307	2,871	1,996	2,148	2,655	2,414	2,169	2,294	3,652	29,442	15.08%
Friday	2,186	2,512	3,003	2,541	2,570	2,986	2,423	2,315	2,958	2,258	2,397	3,252	31,401	16.08%
Saturday	2,408	1,843	2,074	2,638	2,097	2,417	1,909	1,846	2,629	1,855	1,942	2,549	26,207	13.42%
Sunday	2,286	1,819	2,206	2,723	2,188	1,935	2,300	1,790	2,387	1,793	1,837	2,010	25,274	12.94%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,643</b>	<b>15,719</b>	<b>16,387</b>	<b>17,293</b>	<b>17,322</b>	<b>15,109</b>	<b>15,757</b>	<b>15,296</b>	<b>17,254</b>	<b>16,100</b>	<b>15,638</b>	<b>18,774</b>	<b>195,292</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

FY 18-19	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Grand Total	% of total
Monday	3,034	2,772	2,621	3,597	2,896	2,480	3,014	2,383	2,772	2,210	2,492	2,296	32,567	14.52%
Tuesday	2,455	3,100	2,281	3,149	2,613	2,278	2,833	2,322	2,257	2,549	2,368	2,329	30,534	13.62%
Wednesday	2,479	2,803	2,421	2,544	3,153	2,358	3,032	2,502	2,418	2,741	2,412	2,496	31,359	13.99%
Thursday	2,680	3,072	2,518	2,911	3,334	2,429	2,345	3,086	2,615	2,887	2,514	2,456	32,847	14.65%
Friday	2,962	2,834	3,763	3,219	3,856	2,745	2,716	3,354	2,599	2,391	2,710	3,368	36,517	16.29%
Saturday	2,348	2,535	3,023	2,637	2,686	2,925	2,355	2,164	2,824	1,769	2,162	2,798	30,226	13.48%
Sunday	2,604	2,581	2,646	3,702	2,462	2,842	2,236	2,137	2,619	1,761	2,055	2,530	30,175	13.46%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18,562</b>	<b>19,697</b>	<b>19,273</b>	<b>21,759</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>18,057</b>	<b>18,531</b>	<b>17,948</b>	<b>18,104</b>	<b>16,308</b>	<b>16,713</b>	<b>18,273</b>	<b>224,225</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Top 15 breakdown locations by Highway Name

Highway Name	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Grand Total
M1	26,648	25,738	26,476	28,380	32,152	<b>139,394</b>
M25	23,823	24,369	24,130	24,818	27,941	<b>125,081</b>
M6	23,510	23,374	23,895	24,645	29,428	<b>124,852</b>
M5	14,893	13,312	13,591	14,187	15,420	<b>71,403</b>
M62	11,501	11,020	10,761	11,686	13,332	<b>58,300</b>
M4	10,640	10,496	10,050	10,862	12,462	<b>54,510</b>
M40	7,225	7,326	7,140	7,687	9,692	<b>39,070</b>
A1M	6,489	6,534	6,508	7,310	8,545	<b>35,386</b>
M60	5,448	5,920	6,109	6,302	6,379	<b>30,158</b>
M3	5,053	6,151	5,073	5,744	7,033	<b>29,054</b>
M42	4,698	4,427	4,160	4,441	4,457	<b>22,183</b>
M11	3,700	3,861	3,737	3,707	4,268	<b>19,273</b>
A1	3,630	4,134	4,025	3,755	3,187	<b>18,731</b>
M20	3,282	3,091	3,016	2,982	4,244	<b>16,615</b>
M56	2,805	2,755	2,670	2,749	3,421	<b>14,400</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>153,345</b>	<b>152,508</b>	<b>151,341</b>	<b>159,255</b>	<b>181,961</b>	<b>798,410</b>

When looking at the highest frequency of incidents it is important to look at the context in terms of road length and traffic flow. Unsurprisingly the top 3 roads with the highest number of Breakdowns also appear in the top 3 when looking at traffic flow rates.

Highways England says simple checks are a way to make sure a vehicle is roadworthy. Research shows almost half of all breakdowns are caused by simple mechanical problems which could be avoided with simple checks and nearly a quarter are caused by tyre problems. We are currently sharing the following advice with road users, as part of our campaign

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/motorways/>:

- Check tyres: prior to setting off on a long/significant journey, check your tyre pressures are suitable for the load and the condition of your tyres, including the spare. Look out for cuts or wear and make sure the tyres have a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm, which is the legal limit
- Check engine oil: use your dipstick to check oil regularly and before any long journey, and top up if needed. Take your car back to the garage if you're topping up more than usual
- Check water: to ensure you have good visibility, always keep your screen wash topped up so you can clear debris or dirt off your windscreen
- Check lights: if your indicators, hazard lights, headlights, fog lights, reverse lights or brake lights are not functioning properly, you are putting yourself and your family at risk. In addition, light malfunctions can be a reason for your vehicle to fail its MoT
- Check fuel: before setting out, check your fuel levels and make sure you have enough to get to your destination

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review within 2 months of the date of this response for Freedom of Information requests and within 40 days for Environmental Information Regulations requests.

Our internal review process is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk). You should contact me if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number **100092** in any future communications.

Yours sincerely